## "OUT OF THUN,"

A SHORT STORY IN THREE PARTS

BY ROPERT BARR,

Author of "The Face and the Mask,"

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I.-BESSIE'S BEHAVIOR. On one point Miss Bessie Durand agreed with Alexander von Humboldt, in fact, she even went further than that celebrated man, for while he asserted that Thun was one of the three most beautiful spots on earth. Bessie held that this Swiss town was absolutely the most perfectly lovely place she had ever visited. Her reason for this conclusion differed from that of Humboldt. The latter, being a mere man, had been influenced by the situation of the town. the rapid foaming river, the placid grean lake, the high mountairs all around and the snow peaks to the east, the ancient castle overlooking everything and the quaint streets with the pavements up at

the first floors. Bessle had an eye for all these things, of course, but while waterfalls and profound ravines were all very well in their way, her hotel had to be filled with the right sort of company before any spot on earth was entirely satisfactory to Bessie. She did not care to be out of humanity's reach, nor to take her small journeys alone; she liked to hear the sweet music of

alone; she liked to hear the sweet music of speech, and if she started at the sound of her own. Bessie would have been on the jump all day, for she was a brilliant and effusive talker.

So it happened that in touring through Switzerland, Bessie and her mother (somehow people always placed Bessie's name before that of her mother, who was a quiet little unobtrusive woman) stopped at Thun, intending to stay but a day, as most people do, but when Bessie found the big hotel simply swarming with nice young men she simply swarming with nice young men she told her mother that the local guide book asserted that Humboldt had once said that Thun was one of the three most lovely places on earth, and therefore they ought to stay there and enjoy its beauties, which they at once proceeded to do. It must not be imagined from this that Bessie was particularly fond of young men. Such was far from being the case. She merely liked to have them propose to her, which was certainly a laudable ambition, but she invariably refused them, which went to show that she was not, as her enemies stated, always in love with somebody. The fact

she was a heartless flirt. How little do we know the motives of our fellow creatures! How prone are we to misjudge the actions of others! Bessle was no flirt, but a high-minded, conscientious girl, with an ambition—an ambition which she did not babble about to the world, and therefore the world failed to appreciate her, as it nearly always fails to appreciate her, as it nearly always fails to appreciate those who do not take it fails to appreciate those who do not take it into their confidence. It came to be currently reported in the

hotel that Bessie had refused no less than seven of the young men who had been staying there, and as these young men had, one after another, packed up and departed, either by the last train at night or the earliest in the morning, the proprietor be-gan to wonder what the matter was, espegan to wonder what the matter was, especially as each of the departing guests had but a short time before expressed renewed delight with the hotel and its surroundings. Several of them had stated to the proprietor that they had abandoned their intention of proceeding further with their Swiss tour, so satisfied were they with Thun and all its belongings. Thus did the flattering opinion of Alexander von Humboldt seem about to become general, to the great delight of the hotel proprietor, when, without warning, these young men had gloomily deserted Thun, while its beauty undoubtedly remained unchanged. Naturally the good man who owned the hotel was bewildered, and began to think that, after all, the English were an uncertain, unind-changing race.

mind-changing race. Among the guests there was one young llow who was quite as much perplexed as the proprietor. Archie Severance was one of the last to fall under the speil of drepaired in the last to fall under the speil of flessie, if, indeed, it is correct to speak of Archie falling at all. He was a very defiberate young man, not given to doing anything precipitously, but there is no doubt that the charming personality of Bessie fascinated him, although he seemed to content himself with admiring her at a distance cinated him, although he seemed to content himself with admiring her at a distance. Eessie, somehow, did not seem to care about being admired from a distance, and once when Archie was promenading back and forth on the terrace above the river, she sm.led sweetly at him from her book, and he sat down beside her. Jimmy Wellman had gone that morning, and the rest had not yet found it out. Jimmy had so completely monopolized Miss Durand for the last few days that no one else had had a chance, but now that he had departed, Eessie sat alone on the terrace, which was a most unusual state of things.

"They tell me," said Bessie in her most flattering manner, "that you are a famous ctimber, and that you have been to the top of the Matterhorn."

ctimber, and that you have been to the top of the Matterhorn."

"Oh, not famous; far from it," said Archie, modestly. "I have been up the Matterhorn three or four times, but then women and children make that ascent nowadays, so that is nothing unusual."

"I am sure you must have had some thrilling escapes," continued Bessie, looking with admiration at Archie's stalwart frame, "Mr. Wellman had an awful exframe. "Mr. Wellman had an awful ex-perlence—"
"Yesterday?" interrupted Archie. "I hear

be left early this morning."
"No, not yesterday," said Miss Durand,



was that Miss Bessie Durand's motives were entirely misunderstood by an unap-preciative world. Was she to be biamed because young men wanted her to marry them? Certainly not. It was not her fault that she was pretty and sweet, and that that she was pretty and sweet, and that young men, as a general rule, liked to talk to her better than to any one else in the neighborhood. Many of her detractors would very likely have given much to have had Bessie's many charms of face, figure and manner. This is a jealous world, and people delight in saying spiteful little things about those more favored by Provi-dence than themselves. It must be ad-mitted, however, that Bessie had a certain cooling, confidential way with people that may have misled some of the young men who ultimately proposed to her into im-agining that they were especial favorites with the young lady

She took a kindly interest in their affairs, and very shortly after their acquaintance with her most young men found themselves pouring into her sympathetic ear all their hopes and aspirations. Bessie's ear was very shell-like and beautiful as well as sympathetic, so that one can hardly say the young men were to blame, any more than Bessle was. Nearly everybody in this world wants to talk of himself or herself, as the case may be, and so it is no wonder that a person like Bessie, who is willing to listen while other people talk of themselves, is popular. Among the many billions who inhabit this planet there are too many talkers and too few listeners, and although Bessie was undoubtedly a brilliant talker on occasion, there is no doubt that her many victories resulted more from her appreciative qualities as a talented Estener than from the entertaining charms of her conversation. Those women who have so much to say about Bessle's behavior might well take a leaf from her beak in the say about Take a leaf from her book in this respect. They would find, if they had even passably good looks, that proposals would be more frequent. Of course there is no use in denying that Bessle's eyes had much to do with bringing young men to the point. Her eyes were large and dark and they had an entrancing habit of softening just at the right moment, when there came into them a sweet, trustful, yearning look that it was simply impossible to resist. They gazed inus at a young man when he was telling in low whispers how he hoped to make the world wiser and better by his presence in it, or when he narrated some incident of ft, or when he narrated some incident or great danger in which he took part, where (unconsciously, perhaps, on the teller's part) his own heroism was shown forth to the best possible advantage. Then Bes-sie's eyes would grow large and humid and tender and a subdued light would come into them as she hung breathlessly on his words. Did not Desdemona capture Othel-lo merely by listening to a recital of his own daring deeds, which were, doubtless,

The young men at the big hotel in Thun were clad mostly in knickerbockers, and many of them had alpenstocks of their own. It soon became their delight to sit on the terrace in front of the hotel during the pleasant summer evenings and relate to Bessle their hairbreadth escapes, the con-tinuous murmur of the River Aarc forming a soothing chorus to their dramatic narrations. At least a dozen young men hovered around the girl, willing and eager to confide in her, but while Bessie was smiling and kind to them all, it was soon evident that seme special one was her favorite, and then the rest hung hopelessly back. Things would go wonderfully well for this lucky fellow for a day or two, and he usually be-came so offensively conceited in his bearing toward the rest that the wonder is he estoward the rest that the wonder is ne escaped without personal vengeance being wreaked upon him; then all at once he would pack up his belongings and gloomly depart for Berne or Interlaken, depending on whether his ultimate destination was west or east. The young men remaining invariably tried not to look jubilant at the sudden departure, while the ladies staying at the hotel began to say hard things of Bessle, going even so far as to assert that

very greatly exaggerated?

coldly, drawing herself up with some in dignation, but as she glanced sideways at Mr. Severance, that young man seemed so innocent that she thought perhaps he meant nothing in particular by his remark. So after a slight pause Bessie went on again. "It was a week ago. He was climbclouds surrounded him." "And what did Jimmy do? Waited till the clouds rolled by, I suppose."
"Now, Mr. Severance, if you are going to laugh at me, I shall not talk to you any

"I assure you, Miss Durand, I was not laughing at you. I was laughing at Jimmy. I never regarded the Stockhorn as a formidable peak. It is something like 7,195 feet high, I believe, not to mention

the inches." the inches."
"But surely, Mr. Severance, you know very well that the danger of a mountain does not necessarily bear any proportion to its altitude above the sea."
"That is very true. I am sure that Jimmy himself, with his head in the clouds, has braved greater dangers at much

lower levels than the top of the Stock-Again Miss Durand looked seachingly at

Again saiss Durand looked seachingly at the young man beside her, but again Archie was gazing dreamily at the curious bell-shaped summit of the mountain under discussion. The Stockhorn stands out nobly head and shoulders above its fellows, when viewed from the hotel terrace at Thun. There was silence for a few mo-ments between the two, and Bessie said to herself that she did not at all like this exceedingly self-possessed young man who seemed to look at the mountains in preferseemed to look at the mountains in preference to gazing at her, which was against the natural order of things. It was evident that Mr. Severance needed to be taught a lesson, and Bessie, who had a good deal of justifiable confidence in her own powers as a teacher, resolved to give him the necessary instruction. Perhaps, when he had acquired a little more experience, he would not speak so contemptuously of "Jimmy" or any of the rest. Besides it is always a generous action towards the rest of humanity to reduce the inordinate selfesteem of any one young man to something like reasonable proportions. So Bessie, in-stead of showing that she was offended by his flippant conversation and his lack of devotion to her, put on her most bewitch-ing manner and smiled the smile that so many before her latest victim had found impossible to resist. She would make him talk of himself and his exploits. They all

succumbed to that treatment.
"I do so love to hear of narrow escapes," said Bessle, confidently. "I think it is so inspiring to hear of human courage and endurance being pitted against the dangers of the Alps and coming out victorious."
"Yes, they usually come out victorious according to the accounts that reach us, but then, you know, we never hear the

mountain's side of the story."

"But, surely, Mr. Severance," appealed Bessle, "you do not imagine that a real climber would exaggerate when telling of what he had down."

"No. Oh, no. I would not go so far as to say that he would exaggerate exactly, but I have known cases where—well—a sort of Alpine glow came over a story that, I must confess, improved it very much. Then, again, curlous mental transformations take place, which have the effect of making a man, what the vulgar term, a liar. Some years ago a friend of mine came over here to do a few ascents, but he found sitting on the hotel plazza so much more to his taste that he sat there. I think myself that the veranda climber is the most sensi-ble man of the lot of us, and if he has a good imagination there is no reason why he should be distanced by those you call real climbers when it comes to telling stories of adventures. Well, this man, who is a most truthful person, took one false step. You know some amateurs have a vile habit of getting the names of various peaks branded on their alpenstocks, just as if any real on their alpenstocks, just as if any real

rames it will hold, from the Ortler to Mont Blanc. My friend was weak enough to have all the climbs he intended to make branded on the alpenstock he bought the noment he entered Switzerland. They always buy an alpenstock the first thing. He never had the time to return to the mountairs, but gradually he came to believe that he had made all the ascents recorded by fire and iron on his pole. He is a truthyl man and iron on his pole. He is a truthful man on every other topic than Switzerland."
"But you must have had some very dangerous experiences among the Alps, Mr. Severance. Please tell me of the time you were

"I am sure it would not interest you."
"Oh, it would; it would. Please go on and don't require so much persuasion. I am just lenging to hear the story."
"It isn't much of a story because, you see

there is no alpine glow about it."

Archie glanced at the girl and it flashed across his mind that he was probably then in the greatest danger he had ever been in, in his life. She bent forward toward him, her his life. She bent forward toward him, her elbows on her knees and her chin—such a pretty chin—in her hands. Her eyes were full upon him, and Archie had sense enough to realize that there was danger in their clear pellucid depths, so he, too, turned his own from them and sought refuge in his old friend the Stockhorn.

"I think the narrowest escape I ever had was about two weeks ago. I went up—"

was about two weeks ago. I went up—"
"With how many guides?" interrupted
Bessie breathlessly.
"With none at all," answered Archie
with a laugh.

"Isn't that very unsafe? I thought one always should have a guide."
"Sometimes guides are unnecessary. I took none on this occasion because I only ascended as far as the Chateau in Thun, ascended as far as the Chateau in Thun, some 300 feet above where we are sitting, and as I went by the main street of the town, the climb was perfectly safe in all weathers. Besides there is generally a policeman about."

"Oh," said the girl, sitting up suddenly very straight. Archie was looking at the mountains and did not see the hot anger surge up into her face.

surge up into her face.
"You know the steps leading down from

"You know the steps leading down from the castle; they are covered in, and are very dark when one comes out of the bright sunlight. Some fool had been eating an orange there, and had carelessly thrown the peel on the steps. I did not notice it and so trod on a bit. The next thing I knew I was in a heap at the foot of that Iong stairway, thinking every bone in my body was broken. I had many bruises, but no hurt that was serious, nevertheless I never had such a fright in my life, and I hope never to have such another." Bessie rose up with much dig-

"I am obliged to you for your recital, Mr. Severance," she said freezingly. "If I do not seem to appreciate it as much as I

do not seem to appreciate it as inucli as a should, it is perhaps because I am not accustomed to being laughed at."

"I assure you, Miss Durand, that I am not laughing at you, and that this pathetic incident was anything but a laughing mather to me. The Stockhorn has no such ter to me. The Stockhorn has no such danger lying in wait for a man as a bit of Please do not be offended with me. I told you my stories have no Alpine glow about them, but the danger is undownthere."

Archie had risen to his feet, but there was no forgiveness in Miss Durand's eyes as she bade him "Good afternoon" and went into the hotel, leaving him standing there.

During the week that followed Archie had little chance of making his peace with Miss Durand, for in that week the Sanderson episode had its beginning, its rise, and its culmination. Charley Sanderson, em-boldened by the sudden departure of Well-man, became the constant attendant of Bessle, and everything appeared to be in his favor until the evening he left. That evening the two strolled along the walk that borders the north side of the river, leading to the lake. They said they were going to see the Alpine glow on the snow mountains, but nobody believed that, for the glow can be seen quite as well from the terrace in front of the hotel. Be that as it may, they came back together shortly be fore 8 o'clock, Bessie looking her prettiest and Sanderson with a black from on his face, evidently in the worst of tempers. He flung his belongings in a bag and departed on the 8:40 train for Berne. As Archie met the pair, Bessie actually smiled very sweetly upon him, while Sanderson glared as if he had never met Severance

"That episode is evidently ended," said Archie to himself as he continued his walk toward Lake Thun. "I wonder if it is pure devilment that induces her to lead people on to a proposal and then drop them. I suppose Charley will leave now, and we suppose Charley will leave now, and we will have no more games of billiards. I wonder why they all seem to think it the proper thing to go away. I wouldn't. A woman is like a difficult peak, if you don't succeed the first time, you should try again. I believe I shall try half a dozen proposals with Bessie myself. If I ever come to the point, she won't find it so easy to get rid of me as she does with all the rest." Meditating thus, he sat down on a bench

under the trees facing the lake. Archie wondered if the momentous question had been asked at this spot. It seemed just the place for it, and he noticed that the Sanderson was carrying an iron-pointed cane. As Archie smiled and looked about him, he saw on the seat beside him a neat fittle morocco-bound book, with a silver clasp. It had evidently slipped from the insecure dress pocket of a lady who had been sitting there. Archie picked it up and turned it over and over in his hands. It is a painful thing to be compelled to make excuses for one of whom we would fain speak well, but it must be admitted that at this point in his life Severance did what he should not have done. He actually read the contents of the book, although he must have been aware before he turned the secend leaf that what was there set down was meant for no eye save the writer's own. Archie excuses himself by maintaining that he had to read the book before he could be sure it belonged to anybody in particular, and that he opened it at first merely to see if there were a name or a card inside, but there is little doubt that the young man knew from the very first whose book it was, and he might at least have asked Miss Durand if it were hers before he opened it. However, there is little purpose in speculating on what might have been, and as the reading of the note book led directly to the utterly unjustifiable action of Severance afterward, as one wrong step invariably leads to another, the contents of the little volume are here given, so that the reader of this tragedy may the more fully understand the

II.-BESSIE'S CONFESSION.

bother with one, if my memory were good to do about that as well. I can't give it to her about that as well. dently do not talk to each other about the proposals they make, therefore, a man writer has merely his own experience to go upon, so his proposals have a sameness; his hero proposes just as he himself has done or would do. Women writers seem to have more imagination in this matter, but they describe a proposal as they would like it to be, and not as it actually is. I find it to be, and not as it actually is. I find that it is quite an easy thing to get a man to propose. I suppose I have a gift that way, and besides there is no denying the fact that I am handsome and perhaps that is something of an aid. I therefore latered to write down to the best like the second. intend to write down in this book all my proposals, using the exact language the man employed, and thus I shall have the proposals in my novel precisely as they occurred. I shall also set down here any thoughts that may be of use to me as I

write my book.

August 2.—I shall hereafter not date the notes in this book; that will make it look less like a diary, which I detest. We are in Thun, which is a lovely place. Humholdt, whoever he is or was, said it is of the three prettiest spots on earth. I wonder what the names are of the other two. We intended to stay but one night at this hotel, but I see it is full of young

"Ice axes, of course. Now, there is a usefet individual in Interlaken who is what you
might call a wholesale brander. He has the
names of all the peaks done in iron at his
shop, and if you take your alpenstock to him,
he will, for a few francs, brand on it all the
rames it will hold, from the Ortler to Mont
Blanc. My friend was weak enough to have
all the climbs he intended to make offers with some regard to the scenery, just as I suppose a stage manager does. One shall propose by the river; there are lovely, shady walks on both sides; another up in the mountains; another in the moonlight on the lake in one of the pretty for-eign looking rowboats they have here, with eign looking rowboats they have here, with striped awnings. I don't believe any novelist has ever thought of such a thing. Then I can write down a vivid description of the scenery in conjunction with the language the young man uses. If my book is not a success it will, be because there are no discriminating critics in England.

First proposel. This came on rather un-

First proposal. This came on rather unexpectedly. His name is Samuel Caldwell and he is a curate here for his health. He and he is a curate here for his health. He is not in the least in love with me, but he thinks he is, and so I suppose it comes to the same thing. He began by saying that I was the only one who ever understood his real aspirations, and that if I would join my lot with his he was sure we would not only bring happiness to ourselves, but to others as well. I told him gently that my own highest aspiration was to write a successful novel, and this horrified him, for he thinks novels are wicked. He has sone to somewhat lengthy, an idea may be formed Grindewald, where he thinks the air is more suitable for his lungs. I hardly count this as a proposal, and it took me so much



realized that it actually was an offer of his heart and hand. Besides, it took place in the hotel garden, of all unlikely spots, where we were in constant danger of in-

terruption. Second proposal. Richard King is a very nice fellow and was tremendously in earnest. He says his life is blighted, but he will soon come to a different opinion at Interlaken, where Margaret Dunn writes me it is very gay and where Richard has gone. Last evening we strolled down by the lake and he suggested that we should go ou! in a boat. He engaged one with two women to row, one sitting at the stern and the other standing at the prow, work-ing great oars that looked like cricket bats. The women did not understand English, and we floated on the lake until the moon came up over the snow mountains. Richard came up over the snow mountains. Richard leaned over and tried to take my hand, whispering in a low voice "Bessie." I confess I was rather in a flutter and could think of nothing better to say than "Sir" in a tone of surprise and indignation. He went on very hurredly.

"Bessie," he said, "we have known each other only a few days, but in those few days I have fived in paradise."

"Yes," I answered, gathering my wits

"Yes," I answered, gathering my wits about me, "Humbolt says Thun is one of the

Richard interrupted me with something that sounded remarkably like "Hang Thun. Then he went on and said that I was all the world to him; that he could not live without me. I shock my head slowly and did not reply. He spoke with a finency that seemed to suggest practice, but I told him it could never be. Then he folded his arms, sitting moodily back in the boat, saying I had blighted his life. He did look handsome as he sat there in the moonlight, with a deep frown on his brow, but I could not help thinking he sat back purposely, so that the moonlight might strike his face. I wish I could write down the exact language he used, for he was very eloquent, but some-how I cannot bring myself to do it, even in this book. I am sure, however, that when I come to write my hovel and turn up these notes I shall recall the words. Still, I intended to put down the exact phrases. I wish I could take notes at the time, but when a man is proposing he seems to want all your attention.

A fine, stalwart young man came to the hotel today, bronzed by mountain climbing. He looks as if he would propose in a manner not so much like all the rest. I have found that his name is Archibald Severance, and they say he is a great mountaineer. What a splendid thing a proposal on the high Alps would be from such a man, with the gleaming srow all around. I think I shall use that idea in the book.

Third, fourth, fifth and sixth proposals. the place for it, and he noticed that the gravel on the path was much disturbed, as if by the iron-shod point of an agitated man's cane. Then he remembered that Sanderson was carrying an iron-pointed with the men. Is there no such thing as originality among mankind? You would think they had all taken lessons from some proposing master; they all have the same formula. The last four all began by calling me "Bessie" with the air of taking calling me "Bessie" with the air of taking a great and important step in life. Mr. Wellman varied it a little by asking me to call him Jimmy, but the principle is just the same. I suppose this sameness is the result of our modern system of education. I am sure Archie would act differently. I am not certain that I like him, but he interests me more then eavy of the others. more than any of the others. I was very angry with him a week ago. He knows it, angry with him a week ago. He knows it, but he doesn't seem to care. As soon as Charley Sanderson proposes I will see what can be done with Archie Severance.

I like the name Archie. It seems to suit the young men exactly. I have been wondering what sort of scenery would accord best with Mr. Severance's proposal. I suppose a glacier would be about the correct thing, for I imagine Archie is rather cold. pose a giacier would be about the correct thing, for I imagine Archie is rather cold and sneering, when he is not in very good humor. The lake would be too placid for his proposal, and when one is near the rapids one cannot hear what the man is saying. I think the Kohleren gorge would be just the spot, it is so wild and romantic, with a hundred waterfalls dashing down the precipices.

III. -BESSIE'S PROPOSAL. After reading the book, which he had no business to read, Archie closed the volume, fastened the clasp, and slipped it into his in-August 1.-The keeping of a diary is a side pocket. There was a meditative look in

I must ask Archie if he has ever seen the Kohleren Falls. I suppose he will despise

them because they are not up among the snow peaks.

silly fashion, and I am sure I would not his eyes as he gazed over the blue lake, "I can't return it to her-now." Archie and if I had not a great object in view. said to himself. "Perhaps I should not have However, I do not intend this book to be read it. So she is not a firt after all, but more than a collection of notes that will be useful to me when I begin my novel. The Archie sighed. "I think that's better than novel is to be the work of my life, and I being a flirt—but I'm not quite sure. I supmean to use every talent I may have to pose an author is justified in going to great nake it unique and true to life. I think the New Woman novel is a thing of the past, and that the time has now come for a novel of the old sort, yet written with a fidelity to life such as has never been attempted by the old novelists. A painter or a sculptor uses a model while producing a and say I diff not read it, for I am such a such as a such a such as a well. I can't give it to her and say I diff not read it, for I am such a such as suc

place it where I found it and nide."

The line of trees along the path made it easy for Archie to carry out successfully his hastily formed resolution. He felt like a sneak, a feeling he thoroughly merited, as he dodged behind the trees and so worked his way to the main road. He saw Bessie march straight for the bench, pick up the book and walk back toward the hotel, without ever giancing around, and her definite action convinced Archie that she had no suspicion that anyone had seen her book. This made the young man feel easbook. This made the young man feel eas-ler in his mind, and he swung along the Interlaken road toward Thun, flattering himself that no harm had been done. Nev-ertheless he had resolved to revenge Miss Bessie's innocent victims, and as he walked he turned plan after plan over in his mind. Vengeance would be all the mo-complete as the girl had no idea that he literary methods were known to anyone but herself.

For the next week Archie was very atentive to Bessie, and it must be recorded that the pretty young woman seemed to appreciate his devotion thoroughly and to like it. One morning, beautifully arrayed in walking costume, Bessie stood on the terrace apparently scanning the sky as at this hotel, but I see it is full of young men and as all the women seem to be looking out for an escort, the gossips said to each other as they sat under the awning bust the place for the carrying out of my ideas. The average young man is al-

He spoke for the benefit of the gossips, but they were not to be taken in by any such transparent device. They sniffed with contempt, and said it was brazen of the

two to pretend that they were not meeting there by appointment.

"Yes," said Bessie with a saucy air of defiance as if she did not care who knew it. "I am going by the upper road to the Kohleren Falls. Have you ever seen them?".

"No. Are they pretty?"

"Pretty! They are grand, at least the gorge is, although perhaps you would not think either the gorge or the falls worth "How can I tell until I have visited

somewhat lengthy, an idea may be formed of the helnousness of Bessie's conduct.

It took the two rather more than an hour by the upper road overlooking the town of Thun and the lake beyond, to reach the finger board that pointed down

They zigzagged along a rapidly falling path until they reached the first of a series of falls roaring into a deep gorge surrounded by a dense forest. Bessie leaned against the frail hand-rail and gazed into the depths, Severance standing by her side. into the Kohleren valley. depths, Severance standing by her side.
Severance was the first to speak, and when he spoke it was not on the subject of the cataract.

"Miss Durand," he said, "I love you. I

"Miss Durand," he said, "I love you. I ask you to be my wife."
"Oh, Mr. Severance," replied Bessie without lifting her eyes from the foaming chasm, "I hope that nothing in my actions has led you to—"
"Am I to understand that you are about to refuse me?" cried Archie in a menacing voice that sounded above the roar of the falling waters. Bessie looked quickly up at him and seeing a dark frown on his up at him and seeing a dark frown on his

brow, drew slightly away from him.
"Certainly I am going to refuse you. I have known you scarcely more than a week."
"That has nothing to do with it. I tell

you, girl, that I love you. Don't you understand what I say?"
"I understand what you say well enough, but I don't love you. Is not that answer sufficient?" "It would be sufficient if it were true. It is not true. You do love me. I have seen that for days, for although you may

have striven to conceal your affection for me, yet it has been evident to everyone, and more especially to the man who loved you. Why then deny what has been patent to all onlookers? Have I not seen your face brighten when I approached you? Have I not seen a welcoming smile on your lips that could have had but one mean-

"Mr. Severance," cried Bessie, in un-feigned alarm, "bave you gone suddenly mad? How dare you speak to me in this

"Girl," shouted Archie, grasping her by the wrist, "is it possible that I am wrong in supposing you care for me, and that the only other inference to be drawn from your actions in the tame of "! actions is the true one?"
"What other inference?" asked Bessie, in a trembling voice, trying unsuccessfully to withdraw her wrist from his iron grasp.

"That you have been trifling with me," hissed Severance; "that you have led me on and on, meaning nothing; that you have been pretending to care for me when in reality you merely wanted to add one more to the many proposed you have received. to the many proposals you have received. That is the alternative. Now, which is the fact? Are you in love with me, or have you been fooling me?"
"I told you I was not in love with you,

but I did think you were a gentleman. Now, that I see you are a ruffian, I hate you. Let go my wrist; you are hurting

"Very good; very good. Now we have the truth at last, and I will teach you the danger of making a plaything of a human heart." Severance let go her wrist and seized her around the waist. Bessie screamed and called for help, while the man who held her a helpless prisoner laughed sardoni-

With his free hand he thrust aside the frail pine pole that formed a hand-rail to guard the edge of the cliff. It fell into the torrent and disappeared down the cataract. "What are you going to do?" cried the

girl, her eyes wide with terror.
"I intend to leap with you into this abyss;
then we shall be united forever." "Oh, Archie, Archie, I leve you," sobbed Bessle, throwing her arms around the neck of the astonished young man, who was so amazed at the sudden turn events had taken, that, in stepping back, he nearly accomplished the disaster he had a moment before these tendence.

ment before threatened.
"Then why-why," he stammered, "did you-why did you deny it?" "Oh, I don't know. I suppose because am contrary, or because, as you said, it was so self-evident. Still, I don't believe l would ever have accepted you if you hadn't forced me to. I have become so wearled with the conventional form of proposal."
"Yes, I suppose it does get rather tiresome," said Archie, mopping his brow. "I see a bench a little further down; suppose we sit there and talk the matter over He gave her his hand, and she tripped daintily down to the bench, where they sat

down together. "You didn't really believe I was such a ruffian as I pretended to be," said Archie at last. "Why, yes. Aren't you?" she asked simply, glancing sideways at him, with her

most winning smile.
"You surely didn't actually think I was going to throw you over the cliff." "Oh, I have often heard or read of it being done. Were you only pretending?"
"That's all. It was really a little matter of revenge. I thought you ought to be punished for the way you had used those other poor fellows. And Sanderson was such a good hand at billiards. I could just beat him?"

"You—you said—you cared for me. Was that pretense, too?" asked Bessie, with a catch in her voice.
"No. That was all true, Bessie; and there is where my scheme of vengeance goes lame. You see, my dear girl, I never thought you would look at me; some of the other fellows are ever so much better than I am, and of course I did not imagine I had any chance. I hope you will forgive me, and that you won't insist on having a real revenge by withdrawing what you have said."

"I shall have revenge enough on you Archie, you poor, deluded young man, all your life. But never say anything more about 'the other fellows,' as you call them. There never was any other fellow but you. Perhaps I will show you a little book some day that will explain everything, although I am not so sure, if you saw it, you might think worse of me than ever. I think, per-haps, it is my duty to show it to you before it is too late to draw back. Shall I?" "I absolutely refuse to look at it-now or any other time," said Archie, magnani-mously, drawing her toward him and kissmously, ing her.

And Bessie, with a sigh of relief, won-dered why it was that men have so much less curiosity than women. She was sure a new baby."

Thousands of Mothers Would Sign.

Every Little Village and Small Town.

Multitudes of Homes in the Great Cities

People with World-Wide Reputations Lead the Way.

Great Work of Paine's Celery Compound.

A Blessing to Every Household in the

If another huge petition, like the famous one now going round the world on quite another mission, were to be signed by all the men, women and children who have been cured of disease or saved from a weak, nervous condition by Paine's celery compound, it would take a stout conveyance to carry the enormous document from city to city.

Such a growing testimonial would receive additions from every tiny village and small town, not to mention the cities, on its journey across the United States.

It would be signed by thousands of women no longer tortured by sleeplessness, pains in the back and sides, continual beadaches, neuralgia, dyspepsia and Bright's disease.

There would be fully as many men who had been permanently cured of kidney and liver diseases and rescued from chronic bad health by means of this great invigorator.

A vast number of children would be represented to testify to the ability of Paine's celery compound to restore a healthy appetite, to take away that constant tired feeling and to purify the blood of hermful beauers.

For Frederick, 3:300, \*11:30 a.m., and \*5:30 p.m. For Boyd and way points, \*9:40, 10:25 p.m. For Goyd and way points, \*9:40, 10:25 p.m. \*5:00, .m., \*12:50, \*3:20, .m., \*12:30, .m., \*12:50, \*3:20, .m., \*12:30, .m., \*12:30 p.m. \*10:25, \*11:30 p.m. \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10:25, \*10

to testify to the ability of Paine's celery com-pound to restore a healthy appetite, to take away that constant tired feeling and to purify the blood of harmful bumors.

compound from men and women of high standin in every state in the Union that have already bee

normous work. It has saved lives. It has saved

health. It has saved bomes. But its work as the greatest nerve and brain strengthener and restorer the world has known, is nly well started.

It is not beyond the reach of the most me old, while a much greater expenditure will procure nothing else so effective. Paine's celery compound, the remedy that makes people well, is within reach of all!

that if he had hinted at any such secret she would never have rested until knew what it was.

"The Knock-Out" at Auctions.

There are, we will suppose, in a certain

sale half a dozen "lots" of choice old china Four first-class dealers in this property attend the auction; call them A, B, C and D. It is mutually arranged that A shall do the bidding and the remaining three keep silent. We will suppose, with a view to simplicity. that each of these six lots is worth to a dealer f4, but as our four friends are probably the only persons in the room who could dispose of such property, and who under-stand its value, and, as they refrain from competing, it is not at all surprising to find that the six lots are bought by A at the rate of 10 shillings apiece.
So much for the first stage in the plot. The

sale being concluded, A, B, C, and D forgather at some obscure public house, where they can have the use of a private room, and then begins the second auction. Lot No. 1 is offered, and, after some competition, is allotted to C, for, let us say, £3 10s. He pays over this sum to A, who acts as auctioneer, and who, after deducting the 10s. he has paid for the lot, proceeds to divide the balance of £3 among the members of the party. Consequently party. Consequently, C gets his piece of china for £3 10s. and 15s. back into the bargain, while the others each receive 1 like amount. So with the next let, which D buys for more or less, as the case may be; and, in fact, the procedure as quoted may serve as an illustration of how the affair is conducted throughout.

Mated.

From Judge He-"That was a queer freak of Price'smarrying a woman twice his age. I wonder how it came about?" She-"Naturally enough. He was without money and she was without Price."

New People.

Chunk-"Doesn't a 'New Woman' make you feel fairly mad?" Oniverful-"Yes: but she's not so bad a

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS TO FOLLOW.

From Fun.



He-"A bore like a microbe? I give it up."
"Because it takes a long time to freeze him out, but you can easily make it too hot for him."

RAILROADS.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

(Piedmont Air Line.)

Schedule in effect December 30, 1895.

All trains arrive and leave at Pennsylvania

Passenger Station.

S:00 A.M.—Daily—Local for Dan-lile. Connects at

Manassas for Strasburg, daily, except Sunday, and
at Lynchburg with the Norfolk and Western daily,
and with C. & O. daily for Natural Bridge and
Chitor, Forge.

11:15 A.M.—Daily—The UNITED STATES FAST

MAIL carries Pullman Buffet Sleepers New York
and Washington to Jacksonville, uniting at Charlotte with Pullman Sleeper for Augusta; also Pullman Sleeper Aew York to New Orleans vin Montgomery, connecting at Atlanta with Pullman
Sleep-r for Barmingham, Mempha, and St. Louis.

4.01 P.M.—Local for Strasburg, daily, except
Sunday.

4.51 P.M.—Doily—Local to Checksternille.

Sleep-r for Birmingham, M-smpha. and St. Louis.

a.01 P.M.—Local for Strasburg, daily, except.

Sunday.

4.51 P.M.—Daily—Local for Charlottesville.

10:43 P.M.—Daily—WASHINGTON AND SOUTH-WESTERN VESTIBULED LIMITED, composed of Pulimon Vesti used Sleepers, Dining Cars and Day Cotches. Puliman Sleepers New York to Asheville and Hot Springs, N. C.; New York to Memphis via Birmingham, New York to New Orleans via Atlanta and Montgomery, and New York to Tampa via Charlotte, Columbia and Jacksonville. Vestibuled Day Coach Washington to Atlanta. Dining Car from Gre a borro'te don gomery.

TRAINS 12: IWEEN WASHI. GFON AND ROUND HILL leave Washington 2:01 A.M. daily and 4:45 P.M. daily, except Sunday, and 6:25 P.M. sundays only, for Round Hill; 4:32 P.M., daily, except Sunday, for Round Hill, 7:03 A.M. daily, except Sunday, from Round Hill, 7:03 A.M. daily, except Sunday, from Herndon, and 8:24 A.M. daily, except Sunday, from Herndon, and 8:24 A.M. daily, except Sunday, from Leesburg.

Through trains from the souch arrive at Washington 6:42 A.M., 2:29 P.M. and 9:40 P.M. daily. Manussas Division, 9:45 A.M. asily, except Sonday, and 8:40 A.M. daily from Chariottesville.

Tekets, Sleep ng Car res ryution and information formished at offices, 5il and 13:00 Pennsylvania nevenue, and at Pennsylvania Railroud Passenger Station.

W. H. GREEN, General Superintendent.

J. M. CULP, Traffic Manager.

W. A. TURK, General Passenger Agent, de30 L. S. BROWN, Gen. Agt. Pass. Dept.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

Echedule in effect December 1, 1895.

Leave Washington from station corner of New Jersey avenue and C at.

For Chicago and Northwest, Vestibuled Limited trains 11:30 a.m., 8:20 p.m.

For Cheinnati, St. Louis and Indianapolis, Vestibuled Limited 3,45 p.m., Express 12:90 night.

For Pittsburg and Cleveland, Express daily 11:30 a.m. and 8:40 p.m.

For Lexington and Staunten, 11:20 a.m.

For Lexington and Staunten, 11:20 a.m.

For Laray, Natural Bridge, Romoke, Roexville, Chattanooga, Memphis and New Orleans, 9:10 p.m. daily; Sleeping Cars through.

For Laray, 3:45 p.m. daily.

For Bultimore, week days, 5:00, 6:30, x6:50, x7:00, x7:15, x5:39, 8:30, x9:30, x10:00, x11:30

a.m., x12:10, x12:30, 12:15, x2:30, 3:25, x4:28, 4:32, x5:05, x5:10, x5:30, 5:35, x6:20, 6:30, x8:00, x6:50, x5:10, 6:30, x8:00, x9:00, 10:00, x12:0, x12:0, x12:0, x10:00, x10:00, x12:0, x12:0,

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY.

The number of testimonials for Paine's celery compound from men and women of high standing in every state in the Union that have already been published, would fill a large volume. These testimonials have been written without solicitation. They have been published verbatim as they were received.

Necessarily the testimonials that have publicly appeared have been but one or two, here and there, taken almost at random from an enormously large number that every day and every week steadily increases.

Besides, it is to be remembered that not one tithe of all the magnificent cures fairly due to Paine's celery compound ever get beyond the knowledge of the handelate family; that, in fact, few people have any appreciation of the number of families throughout the United States where Paine's celery compound is kept constantly on hind and is being taken or has been taken by some one of its members.

They have been written without solicitation. They have been written without change and standays. The daily from Union Station (B. and Ph., 6th and B sts.

Trains leave daily from Union Station (B. and Ph., 6th and B sts.

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The daily from Union Station (B. and Ph., 6th and B sts.

The handsomest and most complete solid train service west from Washington.

2.25 P.M. DAILY.—Chrimati and St. Louis deeping cars Washington to Cincinnati.

Arrive Cincinnati. Scolid Vestibuled. Newly Equipped. Electric-lighted. Steam-heated Train. Pullman's finest standily. Dialog Car from Washington.

Arrive Cincinnati. Scolo a.m.; Et. Louis Ph., 11:30 a.m.; Chlengo, 5:30 p.m.; Et. Louis Ph., 11:30 a.m.; Chlengo, 7:30 a.m.; St. Louis daily. Dialog Car from W

2:75 P.M. DAILY.—Express for Gordonsville, Charlottesville, Waynesboro', Staunton and prin-cipal Virginia points, daily; for Richmond, daily, except Sunday Pullnan locations and tickets at company's of-fices, 513 and '421 Penasylvania avenue. H. W. FULLER, no18

General Passenger Agent.

PENNSTLVANIA RAILROAD. Station corner of 6th and B streets. In effect November 17, 1895.

A.M. PENNSYI.VANIA LIMITED.—Pullman ping, Dining, Smoking and Observation Cara-risburg to Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolia, Louiz, Clevelaud and Toledo. Buffet Parlor Car to Harrisburg. Parlor and Dining Cars,
Harrisburg to Pittsburg.
3:40 P.M. CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS EXPRESS.—
Pullman Buffet Parlo Car to Tiarrisburg. Sleeping and Dining Cars, Harrisburg to St. Louis,
Cincinnatt, Louisville and Chicago.
7:10 P.M. WESTERN EXPITESS.—Pullman Sleeping Car to Chicago and Harrisburg to Cieveland.
Dicing Car to Chicago.
7:10 P.M. SOUTHWESTERN EXPRESS.—Pullman
Sleeping and Dining Cars to St. Louis, and Sleeping Car Harrisburg to Cincinnatt.
10:40 P.M. PACIFIC EXPRESS. A.M FAST LINE.—Puliman Buffet Parlor to Harrisburg. Parlor and Dining Cars,

Nagara Falls 6.:11y, except Saturday, with Sleeping Car Washington to Suspension Bridge, via Buffalo.

16:40 P.M. for Erie, Canandalgua, Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara Falls dully, Sleeping Car Washington to Elmira.

For Philadelphia, New York and the East.

4:00 P.M. "CONGRESSIONAL LAMITED," daily, all Parlor Cars, with Dining Car from Baltimore, Regular at 7:05 (Dining Car), 7:20, 9:00, 10:00 (Dining Car), and 11:00 (Dining Car from Wilmington) A.M., 12:45, 3:15, 4:20, 6:40, 10:00 and 11:35 P.M. On Sanday 7:05 (Dining Car), 7:29, 9:00, 11:00 A.M. (Dining Car from Wilmington), 12:15, 8:15, 4:20, 6:40, 10:00 and 11:35 P.M. For Philadelphia only, Fast Express, 7:50 A.M. week days, Express, 12:15 week days, 2:01 and 5:40 P.M. daily.

For Baltimore, 6:25, 7:05, 7:20, 7:50, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00 and 11:50 A.M., 12:15, 12:45, 2:01, 3:15, 2:40 (4:00 Limited), 4:20, 4:36, 5:40, 6:05, 6:40, 7:10, 10:00, 10:40, 11:15 and 11:25 P.M. On Sanday, 7:05, 7:22, 9:00, 9:05, 10:30, 11:00 A.M., 12:15, 1:15, 7:12, 9:00, 9:05, 10:30, 11:00 A.M., 12:15, 1:15, 7:13, 7:13, 5:40 (4:00 Limited), 4:20, 5:40, 6:05, 6:40, 7:10, 10:00, 10:40 and 11:35 P.M.

For Pone's Creek Line, 7:20 A.M. and 4:26 P.M. For Pope's Creek Line, 7:20 A.M. and 4:36 P.M. daily, except Sunday.

Por Annapolis, 7:20, 9:00 A.M., 12:15 and 4:20 P.M. daily, except Sunday. Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Minute Coast Line. Express for Sundays, 9:00 A.M. Sundays, 9:00 A.M. and 4:20 F.M.

Atlantic Coast Line. Express for Richmond, Jacksonville and Tampa, 4:30 A.M., 3:46 P.M. daily. Richmond and Atlanta, 8:40 P.M. daily. Richmond only, 10:57 A.M. week days.

Accommodation for Quantico, 7:45 A.M. celly, and 4:25 P.M. week days.

For Alexandria, 4:30, 6:35, 7:45, 8:40, 9:45, 10:57, 11:50 A.M., 12:50, 1:40, 3:20, 4:25, 5:00, 5:57, 6:15, 8:02, 10:10 and 11:39 P.M. On Sunday at 1:39, 7:45, 9:48 A.M., 2:45, 6:15, 8:02 and 10:10 P.M.

I. PREVOST, neral Manager. General Passenger Agent.

MEDICAL NO FEE TILL CURED. DR. GRACY, EYE, ZAR, Nose and Throat Specialist. Hearing restored, catarrh-cured, riuging in ears stopped. Refer-ences furnished, testimonials on die. 1211 F st. n.W. no28 2m<sup>5</sup> MANLY VIGOR AND NERVE POWER RESTORED by using a bottle or two of Dr. Brothers' in-vigorating cordial. There is no reriesty equal to this. Used 50 years in this city, 906 B s.w.n30.2m

NO FEE UNTIL CURED. Dr. Leatherman, EXPERT SPECIALIST in the treatment and cure of all forms of PRIVATE DISBASES.

HYDROCELE, VARICOCELE, STRICTURES, &c., consultation free, liours, 0 to 12 a.m., 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights, 7 to 8. Sunoays, 4 to 6.

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n19-3m Best of terms. Chapel for funeral services. W. R. Speare. Undertaker & Embalmer.

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